

69th WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION AT NANDANKANAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

02nd to 8th October, 2023

Brief report

Day 1: - 02/10/23 (Monday)

69th Wildlife week celebration started at Nandankanan with “**Anti-Plastic Drive**” involving school students of Nandankanan Govt. High School. To boost the occasion there was a special “**Nukkad Natak**” performed by the Zoo volunteers on the theme “How plastic affects the wildlife and its habitat”. An online quiz on “**Zoos of India**” was also conducted where 48 participants participated in the programme.



Day 2: - 03/10/23 (Tuesday)

The second day of 69th Wildlife Week was celebrated at Nandankanan with a “**Story Telling Session**” by Prachitara Mishra, Storyteller where students from Damana Government High School participated. The storyteller inculcated a sense of responsibility in the minds of students towards conservation of wildlife. A keeper's talk was arranged on “**Big Cats**” where animal keepers shared their experiences with visitors. An online quiz on “**In-situ Conservation centres in India**” was also conducted where 84 participants participated in the programme.



Day 3: - 04/10/23 (Wednesday)

Nandankanan celebrated the 3rd day of Wildlife Week with "**One day at Nandankanan**" Programme where students from Centurion University of Technology and Management, Bhubaneswar guided by Dr.Siba Prasad Parida, Professor, Department of Zoology, visited the Nandankanan Zoological Park and State Botanical Garden. The students got a chance to learn about various plants, animals and insects, they got the opportunity to witness various facilities at zoo like the Zoo Laboratory, Zoo Hospital and Zoo Museum. An online quiz on the topic "**Reptiles**" where 64 participants participated in the programme and keepers talk on "**Reptiles**" were also arranged. The animal keeper discussed about the feeding, breeding biology, behaviour of the reptiles and made people aware of the lifespan, living habits, types and the ways to differentiate a venomous snake from a non-venomous one.





Day 4: - 05/10/23 (Thursday)

A workshop on "Ex-situ Conservation: Present Status & Way Forward" in coordination with Nature and Wildlife Conservation Society of Odisha (NWCSO) was organised to celebrate Day-4 of 69th Wildlife Week. The workshop was attended by members of Nature & Wildlife Conservation Society of Odisha, officials of Nandankanan Zoological Park, representatives of all Zoos of Odisha including DFOs, ACFs, Range Officers, Foresters, Forest Guards, Research Scholars and Zoo Volunteers. The representatives of the zoos discussed their facilities and way forward in ex-situ conservation. An online quiz on "Insects" was also conducted where 66 participants participated in the programme. In addition to this a keeper's talk on "Elephants" were also arranged. The zoo keeper explained the number of elephants, their feeding habits and interesting stories of previous elephants to the visitors.



Day 5: - 06/10/23 (Friday)

Nandankanan celebrated the 5th day of 69th Wildlife Week with a “**Nature Trail**” with Resource Person Dr. Siba Prasad Parida, Professor, CUTM, Bhubaneswar. 22 participants along with zoo volunteers provided a great opportunity to explore the flora and fauna in nature. An online quiz on “**Plants**” was conducted where 60 participants participated in the programme and a keeper's talk about “**Deers**” was also arranged.



Day 6: - 07/10/23 (Saturday)

Nandankanan celebrated the 6th day of 69th Wildlife Week with a set of events such as a “**Wetland Trail**” guided by Dr Satyaranjan Behera, Zoologist, Odisha Biodiversity Board, Bhubaneswar. A “keepers talk” about “**Primates**” and an Online Quiz on “**Wetlands**”. Dr Siba Prasad Parida, students from Centurion University of Technology and Management, ACF, Biologist, Education Officer, Assistant Education Officer, Zoo Volunteers of Nandankanan Zoological Park and others joined the events. The Nature Trail started at 7am with 28 people who had registered prior to the event and were accompanied by Dr Siba Prasad Parida and Dr Satyaranjan Behera and Zoo volunteers. An informative session was taken by Dr Behera at FRH after the event. In addition to that, keepers talk on “**Primates**” was organised in cooperation with the Zoo Volunteers. An online quiz on “**Primates**” was conducted where 60 participants participated in the programme.



Day 7: - 08/10/23 (Sunday)

Nandankanan Zoological Park celebrated the 7th and the last day of 69th Wildlife week with various events such as **“Bird Walk”**, **“Keepers Talk”**, **“Online Quiz”** and a **“Moth Watching”**. Dr Swetashree Purohit, Asst. Professor, CV Raman Global University, Dr Siba Prasad Parida, Prof., Centurion University of Technology and Management, students from CV Raman Global University, Birder and nature enthusiasts and Zoo Volunteers joined the events to make them successful. The **“Bird Walk”** started at 7am with Dr Swetashree Purohit being the resource person; 43 participants along with Dr Siba Prasad Parida and the Zoo Volunteers participated to know about the birding culture, ornithology research and wetland as well as terrestrial birds and observed around 35 species of birds. The keepers talk with the theme being **“Birds”** started at 12noon with two Zoo Keepers from Aviary section along with Zoo Volunteers. The visitors were educated about the bird rearing and care at Nandankanan. An interaction session with Zoo volunteers was organised at 5pm at FRH, State Botanical Garden in presence of Deputy Director, Nandankanan and ACF, Nandankanan. A **“Moth Watching”** session was organised at State Botanical Garden in the evening at 6pm with Mr Udit Pratap Das, PhD Scholar, Utkal University and nature enthusiasts from around the country. A mothing setup was assembled at State Botanical Garden where the 14 participants were educated about 30 types of moths. An online quiz on **“Birds”** also conducted where 53 participants participated in the programme.



Overall, the observation of 69th Wildlife Week at Nandankanan Zoological Park provided facilities for a lot of nature lovers from various fields, thereby spreading a message of protection of wildlife and its conservation. A signature campaign was also organized throughout the week to create awareness on importance of wildlife conservation amongst the visitors. These awareness and outreach activities were shared over print, electronic and social media platforms for wider circulation.

Deputy Director
Nandankanan Zoological Park